

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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Economic and Environmental Analysis Conference 2004 Update

General Strock Formally Announces Conference Web Site Launched Deadline for Paper Submittals Approaches

Bruce Carlson – CECW-PG

On 4 November 2003 MG Carl Strock, Director of Civil Works, issued a memorandum to the field formally announcing the upcoming Economic and Environmental Analysis Conference scheduled for April 13-15, 2004 in Baltimore.

The theme of the conference is “Toward Integrated Water Resources Management.” The conference will provide an important forum for technology transfer across Corps offices in the areas of economic analysis, environmental evaluation and plan formulation. All offices are encouraged to actively participate in the conference.

The full text of General Strock’s memorandum, plus initial information about the conference can be seen on the official [conference web site](#), which is also hosted by Baltimore District. (For non working link copy and paste this <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/2004%20E&E%20Conf/Title%20Frameset.htm>.)

More specific information will be added to the website as conference planning progresses.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – DEADLINE 17 DECEMBER 2003

Presentations made by Corps practitioners are arguably the most important part of the conference, and we are still accepting proposals. Presentations should focus on how particular challenging issues in economic analysis, environmental analysis, or plan formulation have been met, and how this experience may apply to others.


Presentation topics that illustrate applications supporting the various business lines are encouraged –

Flood Damage Reduction	Navigation	Ecosystem Restoration	Watershed/ Multipurpose	Other (Hydro, Water Supply, Emergency)
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Specifically, we want presentations addressing each of economic, environmental, and plan formulation applications for each of the business areas.

Presentations will be made in concurrent sessions, 15 minutes each with a 5-minute discussion period. Keep presentations focused! Proposals should include a summary/abstract not to exceed 300 words, plus a brief presenter biographical statement to include office, job title, degrees held, years of experience, and areas of professional interest. All presentations should be made in PowerPoint; written papers are not required, but are encouraged.

Before submitting proposals, please discuss your ideas with your supervisor, and be sure you will be able to attend the conference. Submissions will be accepted by email only, and should include the words “E & E Proposal” in the subject line. All proposals are due by COB 17 December 2003 – early submittals will be appreciated. Applicants will be contacted no later than 30 January 2004 regarding the status of their proposals.

Abstract submissions and questions about the E & E Conference 2004 should be directed to the Conference Chair, [Bruce Carlson](#). Watch future issues of Planning Ahead and the Conference website (link above) for further updates on E & E 2004. 


Water Supply Workshop

Ted Hillyer – CEIWR-PD

The South Atlantic Division sponsored and the Wilmington District hosted a water supply workshop in Wilmington, NC on 4-6 November 2003. A total of 52 Corps employees attended, representing Headquarters, the Institute for Water Resources, five divisions, and 11 districts. The majority were from planning and engineering, but legal, financial, and accounting professions were also represented. This workshop was the second such SAD workshop, the first having been held in Alabama and hosted by the Mobile District in January 2001.

Headquarters representatives talked on water supply legislation, authorities, contracts, policy, pricing, guidance, delegation, and processing of agreements. The Institute for Water Resources covered the water supply database, ongoing and proposed water supply studies, and the new Water Supply

Business Process initiative. A representative from the Hydropower Analysis Center (HAC) presented an introduction to HAC and an overview of computing hydropower benefits foregone and revenue foregone in water supply studies. Representatives from Mobile District gave presentations on a computerized “water demand management suite” called IWR Main, on determining yield and storage space requirements, and on ACF/ACT EIS water supply issues. Little Rock District representatives discussed Dependable Yield Mitigation Storage and the Beaver Lake water supply case study. The Tulsa District covered credit to power marketing agencies, an overview of the SWD/SWT water supply planning center of expertise, and other Tulsa District experiences. The Wilmington District addressed real time water supply storage accounting, and a representative from the Pittsburg District presented a case study on storage reallocation at the Youghioghenny River Lake. The meeting ended with a 2-hour set aside to provide everyone an opportunity to share lessons learned, ask remaining questions, share experiences, etc.

If you would like to learn more about the material covered at this workshop, the Wilmington District has developed a [web site](#) containing all the PowerPoint presentations. For additional information you may also contact Ted Hillyer at Theodore.M.Hillyer@USACE.ARMY.MIL 

Corps Gets Good Press

The Editor

In October the Corps got some excellent press and that’s good news. It’s also real different. The bad news is that the good news was limited to an exceedingly small news market.

[SRCAF](#) is the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum and it coordinates Sacramento River riparian habitat management in seven central California counties. The Forum manages by ‘agreements’ and, interestingly enough, in accordance with its own [principles and guidelines](#).

For some years one town, Hamilton City, had tried unsuccessfully to get relief from the flooding that yearly sends sandbag crews out to shore up its levee. Recently some progress in getting that relief was made, and the progress was due to extraordinary cooperation among the Corps, the City, and interested parties. SRCAF publishes a monthly newsletter, *SRCAF Notes*, and in the October issue Mr. Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, writes in a comment titled [Hamilton City – A New Way of Doing Business](#) (pdf):

The first significant step reached recently was one that has as much to do with the new Army Corps of Engineer’s approach as anything. This Feasibility Study has been one where the locals have truly been part of the development of the levee location alternative. Glenn County, the Hamilton City Community Services District, and area landowners have all been involved in the discussions, and most of all, the decisions. This approach has been the result of both the attitude of the agency staff and the insistence and willingness of the locals to be part of the process....The approach by the Corps to include the locals in the process from the start has been key to the progress so far....Progress on...challenges is being made and with the cooperation and dedication shown by everyone involved, I believe a new way of doing business along the Sacramento River will evolve.

Mr. Bundy also says – and this would seem an equally significant step – “...by adding ecosystem restoration as part of the dual direction, the public benefit ratio has been increased to the point of feasibility.”

Well, perhaps these developments, while significant to Hamilton City and SRCAF, don't seem such big news after all. Small wonder the nightly news didn't pick up the story. Aren't similar successes common in the Corps? But what isn't common is recognition in print. And note, SCRAF says that a new way of doing business will evolve, which sounds like more than just an instant case. Besides, looked at another way the news here is big. This good thing writ small, with some luck and nurturing, “could be the start of something big.”

My reading of what made Hamilton City work is an extraordinary degree of cooperation enabled by a kind of single mindedness. Single mindedness frequently is a thing most evident after the fact, so to speak. Here single mindedness seems to have been about constructing a study process that helped each participant bring only his or her best to the table, and that resulted in extraordinary cooperation. But in general, it's perhaps better not to pin down single mindedness with too much definition, but mainly to keep in mind what it is not – multiple mindedness and its thousand manifestations.


The link between what happened along the SRCAF-SPK-SPD nexus and what will happen along the general Sponsor/Stakeholder-District-Division-**HQ** nexus is more real than virtual. Or at least the Chief is determined to “make it so.”

Headquarters will be added to the chain of cooperation and single mindedness. Headquarters will be ‘integrated’ – as the Chief likes to put it – made whole with the process. The Headquarters link will complete the chain, from bottom to top, from beginning to end.

The Corps is realigning itself to make this level of cooperation – this extraordinary level – the norm, is reorganizing to institutionalize it. The Program Integration Division, the Regional Integration Teams, the forward placement of district and division personnel, the team of teams, the communities of practice now being established: all are intended (if not yet fully designed) to make this level of cooperation and single mindedness the Standard Operating Procedure. This is the famously misapprehended concept of integration.


A caution re situational awareness, the particulars of situations. The Hamilton City case is an example, not a template. No one means to force locals to become embedded within planning and decision making. If that's their style, fine. If not, that's fine too. Within the Corps, however, Hamilton City *style* cooperation will be the norm. That *style* will enable many *situations*.

If the Hamilton City-style experience can be imitated nationwide, becomes SOP...now, that might make the nightly news. Making it so will be a big challenge, but when has the Corps ever backed off from that.

[Editor's note. Interpretations of Hamilton City's meaning for integration and reorganization are my own. Error is not because anyone told me wrong. This is part one; part two will take up ecosystem restoration. Full disclosure: Mr. Mark Charlton of SPK sits on the SRCAF Board, along with Mr. Bundy.] 

Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address 

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That single line of text should be: "subscribe ls-planningahead"

To obtain a 'help' file, send only the word 'help' in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil 

Submissions Deadline

The deadline for material for the next issue is 16 January 2004.

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The staff of *Planning Ahead* is Brad Fowler as editor, writer and chief bottle washer and Harry Kitch as publisher. Please continue to send in all those good articles and information to Brad. TEL 202-761-4231 or email kirby.b.fowler@usace.army.mil. Harry Kitch can be reached at TEL 202-761-4574 or e-mail Harry.E.Kitch@usace.army.mil. 